

## XIII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Annals of Scottish Natural History.*

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History, a Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated 'The Scottish Naturalist.' No. 23, July 1897, and No. 24, October 1897.]

In No. 23, Mr. Hinxman gives his annual report on "The Movements and Occurrences of Birds in Scotland during 1896," and expresses his satisfaction at the increased number (34) of schedules sent in, as against 20 in 1895. One of the rarities is the Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*), the record of which is hidden away under *S. cinerea* on p. 142; but on turning to p. 160 we find that (the late) Mr. Allan Briggs, in his valuable "Notes from North Ronaldshay," had obtained two examples in the autumns of 1893 and 1896 respectively. This Warbler is new to the Orkneys and has only once been recorded in the northern half of Scotland, namely near Aberdeen. Some other rarities have been already noticed, but a Squacco Heron (*Ardea ralloides*) on North Ronaldshay deserves mention. Passing over some contributions of smaller importance, we come to No. 24, which opens with a useful paper on the birds of the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire. The Rev. H. A. Macpherson writes upon the Spotted Redshank, which appears to be a very rare bird in any part of Scotland except on the east coast; Mr. R. Service gives an interesting account of the Tufted Duck in the Solway district and its great increase as a breeding species during the last ten years; and there are some valuable records among the Notes. From 'The Field' we had already learned that two Bee-eaters had been seen in Caithness on May 12th, and that one of them was shot; but though this natural sequel is not mentioned here by Mr. Lewis Duubar, we are told that "one of them was seen a few days afterwards attacking bees,"—it was probably an hungred. A most circumstantial account is given of the nesting in the rocks of Strathardle "from time immemorial" of the Alpine Swift, distinguished unmistakably from the Common Swift

by its white belly—as it should be; after which the Editors have the courage to say that they have the gravest doubts as to the correctness of the identification of the species. An occurrence of the Red-footed Falcon in Aberdeenshire is recorded; while the adoption by the Merlin of an old nest of a Crow in a tree, as a receptacle for its eggs in two successive years, is given as an illustration of the well-known partiality of this species for a haunt it has formerly occupied. As regards the particular pair, the partiality can no longer be shown, for the gamekeeper, who only managed to kill the female last year, has succeeded in 1897 in destroying the couple, and with them ends for the present the scanty list of the breeding of this species in trees, in Great Britain. The gun has been busy among the Raptores, for a couple of Honey-Buzzards were shot on the Findhorn on the 2nd of September last.

## 2. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. XIV. Nos. 3, 4, July & October, 1897.]

Among the papers in the July number of our contemporary the first in order is a Study of *Vireo philadelphicus* by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, illustrated by a coloured plate. Dr. Elliott Coues follows with remarks on the nomenclature of the Turkeys, expressing his conviction that the A.O.U. Check-List has erred in assigning the name *Meleagris gallopavo* to the North-American bird, and maintaining, in accordance with Mr. Ogilvie Grant (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 387), that the name properly belongs to the species which inhabits Western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and North Mexico. Mr. Gerritt S. Miller, Jun., discourses on abnormal colour-markings. Mr. Mackay has an interesting article on the Terns of Penikese Island, Massachusetts, and he deplors the wholesale robbery of eggs by fishermen and others; the species found breeding were the Common and Roseate Terns. It is convenient to mention here that the same writer has a similar paper on the Terns of Muskeget Island in the October number. Mr. E. A. McIlhenny contributes

a list of 73 species of birds which frequent the lakes and coast of Louisiana; while Mr. W. Palmer records the capture in Washington City, after the great gale in August 1893, of two examples of *Oceanodroma cryptoleucura*, originally supposed to be Leach's Petrel. Mr. Joseph Grinnell describes *Pipilo clemente*, sp. n., from Clemente Island, California; Mr. C. Oberholser characterizes *Empidonax insulicola*, sp. n., from Santa Barbara; while Mr. F. M. Chapman's 3 new subspecies from Arizona and Mexico may be left for the Recorder of "Aves" to mention. In the General Notes, Nomenclature comes on again. Dr. J. A. Allen says that the proper generic name for the Loons (Divers) is *Gavia*, and that the name Urinatoridæ, adopted as a family name in the very last edition of the A.O.U. Check-List, should be changed to Gaviidæ. On the other hand, Dr. Coues speaks of *Gavia* as a "derelict term" adopted by the A.O.U., "on the strength of Dr. Stejrerger's misrepresentations," for the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*). We cannot venture to epitomize his remarks upon the misuse of *Haliplana* in the A.O.U. List, instead of *Onychoprion*; nor can we follow him in his observations upon the names adopted for some of the Procellariidæ; suffice it to say that he gives a good shaking to the publication which bears as its motto:—"Zoological Nomenclature is a means, not an end, of Zoological Science." Nevertheless, on p. 402 we find "*Gavia adamsi*" (our *Colymbus adamsi*) over the name of Dr. Coues, so that concord has been attained, and a haven has been found for the "derelict."

In the October number the frontispiece illustrates a paper by Mr. C. W. Richmond, "The Western Field-Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla arenacea*)"; and this is followed by the first instalment of Notes on the birds of Fort Sherman, Idaho, by Surgeon J. C. Merrill, of the U.S. Army. A list by Mr. W. H. Phelps of 140 species observed in Venezuela, from Cumaná almost to the Orinoco lowlands, is supplemented by notes from Mr. F. M. Chapman, who describes as new species *Elainea albiventris* and *Sittasomus phelpsi*. Passing over three papers, each containing a description of a subspecies, we may notice a short paper by Mr. Ernest Seton Thompson

on the Directive Coloration of Birds, with a plate showing that the colours of the upper parts are Protective, while those of the underparts — which are exposed in flight — are Directive. The species figured are all northern Hawks and Owls; a good deal of importance being attached to the presence—or absence—of the “wrist-spot” on the underside of the expanded wing.

### 3. *Buller on the Ornithology of New Zealand.*

[Notes on the Ornithology of New Zealand. By Sir Walter L. Buller, D.Sc., K.C.M.G., F.R.S. Trans. New Zeal. Inst. xxix. p. 179, 1896.]

Sir Walter Buller's most recent notes on the birds of New Zealand (read before the Wellington Philosophical Society on the 17th of February 1896) contain a quantity of new information which will be available for his promised handbook on the birds of that country. They are prefaced with an account of the successful reception accorded by many eminent naturalists to his ‘Illustrations of Darwinism’ (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1895, p. 390), which Mr. Wallace, Sir Joseph Hooker, Professor Parker, and other well-known scientists unite in praising.

Although several more species of New Zealand birds are recorded as now probably extinct, we are glad to see that such rarities as *Xenicus longipes* and *Thinornis novæ-zealandiæ* are still occasionally met with. *Phalacrocorax stictocephalus* of Australia is now authentically registered for the first time as an occasional visitor to New Zealand. Sir Walter gives an interesting account of a visit to a breeding-place of the Gannet of the Southern Seas (*Dysporus serrator*), at Cape Kidnappers. The colony, on a small plateau about 200 feet above the sea, was occupied by over a thousand nests of this species, so crowded together that “it was difficult to step between them.” A specimen of the rare Penguin *Eudyptes vittatus* of Finsch was obtained on Stewart Island. A pair of the little-known large *Apteryx lawryi* Rothschild was met with in the same island, and the egg was also procured; it measures 5·4 inches by 3·25, and is “perfectly elliptical.”

4. *Cooke's 'Birds of Colorado.'*

[The Birds of Colorado. By W. W. Cooke. State Agricultural College, Bulletin no. 37, 1897.]

Mr. Cooke's list of the 365 birds of the State of Colorado as yet known, with his remarks on the mode and date of their occurrence and other particulars, seems to be a useful and well-prepared piece of work. It is arranged according to the order and nomenclature of the American Code, and is accompanied by a complete Bibliography of Colorado Ornithology. Mr. Cooke asks us to say that copies of it may be obtained gratis by addressing the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A.

5. *Forbes and Robinson on the Parrots of the Derby Museum.*

[Catalogue of Parrots in the Derby Museum. By H. O. Forbes and H. C. Robinson. Bull. Liverpool Mus. vol. i. no. 1, p. 5.]

The energetic Director of the Liverpool Museums has started a new periodical "to make known the contents of the municipal Museums, to publish the results of the investigations carried on in the laboratories attached to them, and to record the observations made on the animals living in the Aquarium." The introductory remarks in the first number give an account of the scope and history of the municipal Museums, of which the "Derby" Museum contains the Zoological, Botanical, Mineralogical, and Geological Collections and an Aquarium. The Derby Museum is, as well known, rich in birds, containing among other series the collection of the thirteenth Earl of Derby, formerly at Knowsley, and the recently-acquired "Tristram Collection" (*cf. Ibis*, 1897, p. 488). Dr. Forbes, aided by Mr. H. C. Robinson, is now engaged in arranging and cataloguing the whole collection of birds, and in the first number of the 'Bulletin' gives us a catalogue of the specimens of Parrots in it. The arrangement and nomenclature of the B. M. Catalogue are followed. It is shown that the Derby Museum contains 1258 specimens of this order, referable to 325

species. Two excellent coloured plates contain figures of *Nestor norfolcensis*, *Coriphilus tahitianus*, and *Nasiterna nanina*.

#### 6. Goeldi on the Vultures of South America.

[Rot- und gelbköpfige Aasgeier Sudamericas (*Cathartes aura*, *C. urubitinga*). Von Dr. E. A. Goeldi, Museums Director in Pará. Sep. Abdr. aus Schweiz. Blätter für Ornithologie. Zürich, 1897.]

We know as yet very little about the yellow-headed Turkey-Buzzard of South America (*Cathartes urubitinga* of Natterer), and Dr. Goeldi now gives us some interesting information on this much neglected bird, although he has not yet discovered the mystery of its nesting. It seems to be mainly a fish-eater, subsisting, however, rather on dead fishes than living ones, and to be consequently found usually in the vicinity of water. In the neighbourhood of the city of Pará and on the adjacent islands in the Amazons-stream, Dr. Goeldi tells us, it is by no means uncommon.

We agree with Dr. Goeldi that there are only three good species of *Cathartes*—putting aside *C. californianus* (which may perhaps be referred to another genus)—namely, *C. aura*, *C. urubitinga*, and *C. atratus*, and that several of the species allowed in the first volume of the British Museum Catalogue are invalid. But it is not quite the case, as he alleges, that no one has noticed *C. urubitinga* since the days of Natterer. The yellow-headed *Cathartes* has been received alive at the London Zoological Gardens more than once. It is duly recognized in the Catalogue of Vertebrates (see ed. 8, p. 392, and ed. 9, p. 406), and its name is registered in Selater and Salvin's 'Nomenclator.' When seen alive, its distinctness from *C. aura* is at once apparent.

#### 7. Hartert on Doherty's Collections from the Eastern Archipelago.

[An Account of the Collections of Birds made by Mr. William Doherty in the Eastern Archipelago. By Ernst Hartert. Novitates Zool. iii. p. 537, 1896.]

Mr. William Doherty appears to have become a most



successful bird-collector, and we have here an account of the many specimens that he has recently obtained for the Tring Museum in various localities in the Eastern Archipelago. In Eastern Java, south of Surabaya, where Mount Arjuno was ascended, examples of 24 species were collected, among which was a new genus and species of Timeliidæ—*Stasiasticus montis*. [Mr. Rothschild here establishes in a footnote a new genus for the so-called *Sphenæaci* of New Zealand, which he proposes to call *Bowdleria*. No exact type of this genus is mentioned.] From Java, Mr. Doherty proceeded to Bali, and obtained examples of 94 species, of which a list is now given—being the first list of the birds of this island, where Wallace (the only previous visitor) stayed but two days. Mr. Hartert describes as new *Gracupica tertia*, *Rhinomyias pectoralis baliensis*, *Carpophaga williami*, and *Ptilonopus albocinctus baliensis*. The avifauna of Bali is essentially Javan, but it is now certain that a *Ptilotis* (*P. limbata*) occurs there, and that Cockatoos are occasionally found in the south-eastern peninsula of the island. There is no question, therefore, of some Australian elements being present in Bali.

Crossing Wallace's Line, Mr. Doherty arrived at Lombok, and made a good collection of birds here too, during a fortnight's stay. Mr. Hartert refers them to 64 species. Of these *Geocichla dohertyi*, *Chlorura intermedia*, and *Carpophaga sasakensis* are characterized as new. It is a great satisfaction to have discovered the real home of *Trichoglossus mitchelli*, which was originally described from a specimen living in the Zoological Society's Gardens. Mr. Doherty collected a large series of this beautiful Lory in the hills of Lombok.

Sambawa, Mr. Doherty's next stopping-place, is a still more interesting locality; the birds being previously known only from a few specimens obtained long ago by Forster, and from a short visit paid to it by Dr. Guillemard during the voyage of the 'Marchesa.' Mr. Doherty visited two stations, and obtained examples of 65 species. Of these *Lophozosterops* (gen. nov.) *dohertyi* and *Macropygia ruficeps orientalis* are described as new.

Satonda, never previously visited by a naturalist, lies three miles off the coast of Northern Sambawa. Mr. Doherty obtained examples of 14 species in this island.

Lastly, Mr. Doherty went to Sumba, formerly known as Sandalwood Island, of which little-known land extracts from his letters and papers given in the present article contain many interesting particulars. Sumba, being outside the long chain of islands extending from Java eastward, is of special zoo-geographical importance, and Mr. Doherty's collection adds materially to our knowledge of its avifauna.

Mr. Hartert refers his specimens to 63 species, among which the following are now described as new:—*Cinnyris buettikoferi*, *Edoliosoma dohertyi*, and *Rhipidura celebensis sumbensis*, besides 3 new species already characterized in the Bulletin of the B.O.C. (see Ibis, 1896, pp. 566, 567). Here also was ascertained to be the *patria* of the long-lost *Eclectus cornelia*, and the unknown male was discovered.

This memoir, which is illustrated by two excellent plates representing *Pericrocotus lansbergi*, *Geocichla dohertyi*, and *Ptilinopus dohertyi*, makes a most valuable addition to our knowledge of the avifauna of the Sunda Islands.

#### 8. Hartert on Birds from Lombok.

[List of a Collection of Birds made in Lombok by Mr. Alfred Everett. By Ernst Hartert. Novitates Zool. iii. p. 591.]

The birds collected in Northern Lombok by Mr. A. Everett from May to the beginning of July 1896 are described in this paper, which also gives Mr. Everett's excellent notes on the island generally, and on the individual birds. Examples of 103 species were obtained, amongst which were many new to the avifauna of the island.

Although some zoologists have lately denied the importance of Wallace's Line, Mr. Hartert, judging from the collections recently made by Mr. Doherty and Mr. Everett, has come to the conclusion that the "differences between the Ornises of Bali and Lombok are remarkably conspicuous, and indeed much more so than those between the Ornises of Lombok and Sambawa or Sambawa, Flores, and Sumba."



9. *Lee's Photographs of British Birds.*

[Among British Birds in their Nesting-Haunts, illustrated by the Camera. By Oswin A. J. Lee. Pts. VI.-VII. 4to. Edinburgh: Douglas. 1897.]

The species figured in their breeding-haunts in Parts VI. & VII. are:—*Ardea cinerea* (3 plates), *Loxia curvirostra*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Saxicola ænanthe* (2), *Sylvia cinerea*, *Sula bassana* (2), *Uria troile* (2), *Anas boscas* (2), *Alca torda*, *Fratercula arctica* (3), *Parus cristatus*, *Mergus serrator*.

The second plate of the Heron with the old bird on her nest, the Crossbill's nest, the Whitethroat's, and the Mallard's, may be specially selected for commendation. The vignettes are, as before, very spirited, though some are rather heavy. The letterpress is up to the standard.

10. *Le Souëf on Birds of Northern Queensland.*

[A Trip to the Bloomfield River District, North Queensland. By D. Le Souëf. Read before the Field-Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 8th March, 1897.]

After his trip to Mount Peter Botte (see Ibis, 1897, p. 618), Mr. Le Souëf made other excursions in the Bloomfield River District, of which he gives us a lively account in the present paper. His allusions to birds are numerous, and in many cases of considerable interest. In the Hope Islands, just off the coast, the Torres-Straits Fruit-pigeon (*Carpophaga spilorhoa*) was found breeding on the mangroves in thousands; they make a substantial nest, and lay but one egg. In the open forest-country on the mainland, several nests of the Superb Fruit-pigeon (*Ptilopus superbus*) were met with. In every case the *male* bird was found sitting. Near Mr. Gibson's home-stead, the Square-tailed Kite (*Milvus isurus*) was numerous, and a bower of the Larger Bower-bird (*Chlamydobera orientalis*) was inspected. It was 3 feet long, and was ornamented with small bones. Near Wyalla, three nests of the Papuan Podargus (*Podargus papuensis*) were taken. They were placed on the horizontal branches of the eucalyptus-trees, and each contained one egg only.

11. *Lloyd on the Nesting of Guianan Birds.*

[Nesting of some Guiana Birds. By C. A. Lloyd. *Timehri*, vol. xi. n. s., p. 1. 1897.]

Mr. Lloyd, having been assisted on the present occasion by Mr. Barshall—"a keen observer of Nature, who has resided for over twenty years among the Indian tribes in the interior,"—gives us a series of most interesting but too short notes on the nesting-habits of some of the Guianan birds. *Tityra cayana* deposits its eggs in the mounds made by termites! *Crypturus variegatus* makes no nest, but deposits its *single* egg on the ground at random; whereas another Tinamoo (*Tinamus subcristatus*) lays 8 or 10 eggs in a shallow nest lined with dry leaves. *Psophia crepitans* was found nesting in a hole in the fork of a tree, 20 feet from the ground, and had laid seven dirty-white eggs, a trifle smaller than those of the Common Fowl (*cf.* Blaauw, Bull. B.O.C. v. p. xviii). Mr. Barshall confirms Dr. Goeldi's discovery of the parasitism of *Cassidix oryzivora*, and says that it deposits its eggs in the nests of *Cassicus affinis* and *C. persicus*. Mr. Lloyd has himself taken the eggs of this bird from the nests of *Ostinops decumanus*. According to Mr. Barshall, the burrows of the Armadillo and Paca (*Cælogenys paca*) are resorted to by the Red-billed Puff-bird (*Monacha nigra*) as nesting-places. The Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*) makes no nest for itself, but takes forcible possession of the nest of the Small White Egret (*Ardea candidissima*). Verily there is much yet to be learned of the queer ways of the birds of the Neotropical Region.

12. *Madarász on Birds from New Guinea.*

[Sammel-ergebnisse Ludwig Birós in Neu-Guinea. Vögel. Bearbeitet von Dr. Julius v. Madarász. *Term. Füz.* xx. p. 17. 1897.]

To fill the place vacated by the death of Feniichel (see Ibis, 1894, p. 548), the authorities of the Hungarian National Museum have sent out another naturalist, Ludwig Biró, to Kaiser-Wilhelm's Land to continue the researches which Feniichel commenced. Dr. v. Madarász now gives us an

account of Biró's first collection, which embraces examples of 64 species. Of these 28 were not obtained by Fenchel, and one Fruit-pigeon (*Ptilopus biroi*) is described and figured as new. It is nearest to *P. jobiensis*.

### 13. *Madarász on Birds from Ceylon.*

[Die ornithologischen Ergebnisse meiner Reise nach Ceylon. Von Dr. Julius v. Madarász. Budapest, 1897. (Term. Füz. vol. xx.)]

Dr. Madarász undertook a zoological expedition to Ceylon in 1896 on behalf of the Hungarian National Museum, and, with the assistance of his staff, made large collections, which were mostly amassed at a bungalow on Lake Kalawewa, in the centre of the island. The 294 specimens of birds thus obtained are referred in the present paper to 125 species, concerning which many interesting notes are given. The Indian ornithologists, and in particular Capt. Legge by his excellent Monograph, have made the birds of Ceylon well known to naturalists, but Dr. Madarász is able to contribute some few corrections in the determination of them. Three plates supply figures of the heads of *Polioaëtus ichthyaëtus*, *Spizaëtus melanotis*, *Ocyrceros gingalensis*, *Rhopodytes viridirostris*, and *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, coloured from life, and of the heads and feet of *Plotus melanogaster* (adult and young), of which a colony was found breeding on Lake Kalawewa.

### 14. *Marchant and Watkins's Wild Birds Protection Acts.*

[Wild Birds Protection Acts 1880-1896. By J. R. V. Marchant, M.A. (Oxon.), of Gray's Inn, and Watkin Watkins, B.A. (Cantab.), of the Inner Temple, Member of the British Ornithologists' Union; both of the Oxford Circuit, Barristers at Law. Second edition. 8vo. London, 1897 (R. H. Porter).]

Messrs. Marchant and Watkins have conferred a benefit on ornithologists by the issue of this volume, the object of which is "to explain the provisions of the Wild Birds Protection Acts now in force, and of the Statutory Orders made at the instance of local authorities under these Acts." The whole subject is a most complicated one, but we think that

an attentive study of the 174 pages contained in the present work will be of material assistance to those who wish to understand it.

### 15. *Meyer and Helm's Reports on the Birds of Saxony.*

[VII.-X. Jahresbericht (1891-94) der ornithologischen Beobachtungsstationen im Königreiche Sachsen, bearbeitet von A. B. Meyer und F. Helm. Nebst einem Anhang: Die sonstige Landesfauna betreffende Beobachtungen. 4to. Berlin: Friedländer, 1896.]

This valuable series of Reports was last noticed in 1893 (*Ibis*, 1893, p. 141). Four more years, 1891-94, are now issued in one memoir, arranged as before. Four more species are now added to the Saxonian avifauna—*Ægialitis hiaticula*, *Calidris arenaria*, *Larus fuscus*, and *Sterna anglica*. Two others, previously uncertain, are confirmed—*Aquila clanga* and *Buteo desertorum*. There are therefore now 280 species in the Saxonian list against 357 in Homeyer's List of German Birds.

### 16. *North's Notes on Australian Birds.*

(1) On a new Subspecies of *Psophodes crepitans*. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Records Austral. Mus. iii. p. 13.

(2) Description of a new Species of *Collyriocincla* from Queensland. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. *Ibid.* p. 49.

(3) On the Extension of the Range of *Calamanthus fuliginosus* and *Emblema picta* to New South Wales. *Ibid.* p. 14.

(4) On a Curious Nesting-site of *Anthus australis*. *Ibid.* p. 15.

(5) On the Nidification of *Megaloprepia magnifica* and the Magnificent Fruit-Pigeon. *Ibid.* p. 16.]

Mr. North continues to publish useful notes on Australian birds in the 'Records of the Australian Museum.' *Psophodes crepitans lateralis*, subsp. nov., is a form of *P. crepitans* from N.E. Queensland. *Calamanthus fuliginosus* and *Emblema pictum* have been found in New South Wales. *Megaloprepia magnifica* has been discovered breeding on the Upper Clarence and its nest and egg obtained—it lays only one.

17. *North on the Insectivorous Birds of New South Wales.*

[A List of the Insectivorous Birds of New South Wales. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. (Dept. of Agricult., Sydney, Miscell. Publ. No. 128. 1897.]

Mr. North continues his list (with notes) of native insectivorous birds drawn up for the Agricultural Department of the Government of New South Wales (see 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 279), from the 64th to the 103rd species. Four coloured plates contain figures of *Malurus melanocephalus*, *M. cyaneus*, *Acanthiza nana*, *A. chrysorrhea*, *Ephthianura aurifrons*, *E. albifrons*, *Mirafra horsfieldi*, and *Anthus australis*.

18. *Oliver's Translation of the Voyages of the Sieur D. B.*

[The Voyages made by the Sieur D. B. to the Islands Dauphine or Madagascar and Bourbon or Mascarenne in the years 1669-70-71 & 72, translated and edited by Captain Pasfield Oliver, late R.A. London: Nutt, 1897. 1 vol. 8vo. 160 pp.]

Capt. Oliver has now published his translation of the voyage of the Sieur D. B., on which he has been engaged for some time (see 'Ibis,' 1896, p. 393). When Strickland first mentioned the existence of this work he did not know the real name of the author nor that it had ever been printed, but quoted a MS. copy belonging to the Zoological Society of London. This was, however, merely a transcript of the original, which is a rare duodecimo volume published by Bardin at Paris in 1674. The book will delight the lover of ancient travels, and is specially interesting to ornithologists as containing one of the few existing accounts of the Bourbon Solitaire and other birds of that island as Sieur Dubois saw them in 1670. We transcribe the passage about the Solitaires (*Didus* (?) *borbonicus*, Salvad. Cat. B. xxi. p. 635) for the benefit of our readers:—

“These birds are thus named because they always go alone. They are as big as a big Goose, and have white plumage, black at the extremity of the wings and of the tail. At the tail there are some feathers resembling those of the Ostrich. They have the neck long, and the beak formed like that of Woodcocks, but larger; the legs and feet like those of

Turkey-chicks. This bird betakes itself to running, only flying but very little. It is one of the best game of the island."

19. *Reichenow on the Birds of Kaiser-Wilhelm's Land.*

[Zur Vogelfauna von Kaiser-Wilhelm's Land. Von Ant. Reichenow. J. f. O. July, 1897.]

After a short account of the recent expedition of Dr. Lauterbach, Dr. Kersting, and Herr Tappenbeck into the interior of Kaiser-Wilhelm's Land, the author gives an account of the birds obtained, which are referred to 57 species. A complete list of the species as yet recognized in this part of New Guinea is added. They are 205 in number. Coloured figures are given of *Paradisea maria* and *Chlamydotera lauterbachii*.

20. *Rothschild and Hartert on Papuan Birds.*

[Contributions to the Ornithology of the Papuan Islands. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild and Ernst Hartert. Novitates Zool. iii. p. 530.]

This paper gives an account of specimens of birds collected from April to June on Mount Victoria, Owen Stanley Range, at elevations of from 5000 to 7000 feet, and enumerates 34 species. *Ptilotis salvadorii* is described as new; and the acquisition of an adult male and an immature male of *Cnemophilus macgregoriae* de Vis (of which only one specimen was previously known) is recorded.

It also gives a list of 43 species of birds collected in the Aru Islands by Capt. Cayley Webster, and remarks appended. *Syma torotoro tentelare* is a new subspecies.

21. *Salvadori on Birds from Bolivia and Argentina.*

[Viaggio del Dott. Alfredo Borelli nel Chaco boliviano e nella Repubblica Argentina. VII. Uccelli. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Boll. Mus. Zool. ed Anat. Comp. R. Univ. Torino, xii. no. 292.]

Count Salvadori writes on the birds collected by Dr. Alfredo Borelli in the northern provinces of Argentina and the adjacent Chaco of Bolivia in 1895 and 1896. Dr. Borelli brought home 696 birdskins, which are referred by



the author to 213 species. Of these seven are described as new—*Buarremon borellii*, *Euscarthmus viridiceps*, *Phyllomyias berlepschi*, *Serphophaga inornata*, *Sublegatus frontalis*, *Leptoptila callauchen*, and *L. saturata*. Dr. Borelli also obtained in the province of Jujuy an example of the rare Humming-bird *Eriocnemis glaucopoides*, of which only one example was previously known, and has added 26 species to the Argentine and 38 to the Bolivian avifauna.

22. Sharpe's 'Monograph of the Paradiseidæ.'

[Monograph of the *Paradiseidæ*, or Birds of Paradise, and *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, or Bower-Birds. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part VII. Folio. London: H. Sotheran & Co., 1897.]

The seventh part of Dr. Sharpe's splendid monograph contains illustrations of the following species:—

<i>Craspedophora alberti</i> .	<i>Parotia carolæ</i> .
<i>Seleucides nigricans</i> (2 plates).	<i>Pteridophora alberti</i> .
<i>Maegregoria pulchra</i> .	<i>Loboparadisea sericea</i> .
<i>Paradisea minor</i> (2 plates).	<i>Ælureodus melanocephalus</i> .

Of these we pronounce *Pteridophora* to be the most wonderful—it is, in fact, probably the most remarkable bird in existence. It is hardly possible to imagine the ages of "sexual selection" that would be required to develop the male's extraordinary plumes. *Loboparadisea sericea* is, we suspect, a young or female of an unknown male.

23. Shufeldt on Fossil Bird-bones from Tennessee.

[On Fossil Bird-bones obtained by Expeditions of the University of Pennsylvania from the Bone-caves of Tennessee. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Amer. Nat., July, 1897.]

The author describes a small collection of subfossil bones obtained by Mr. H. C. Mercier while in charge of explorations for the University of Pennsylvania in the bone-caves of Tennessee. They belong to species still, or until recently, abundant in North America, of which eight are determinable. They embrace numerous bones of the Turkey, which Dr. Shufeldt refers to *Meleagris gallopavo*, though it appears

that Prof. Cope has described at different times three alleged species of Turkey—*M. antiquus*, *M. altus*, and *M. celer*.

#### 24. *Stolzmann on the Birds of Ferghana.*

[Oiseaux de la Ferghana d'après les recherches faites par M. Thomas Barey (1892-1895). Par Jean Stolzmann. Bull. Soc. Imp. de Natural. Moscou, 1897, no. 1, p. 54.]

M. Stolzmann writes on the birds collected in the Transcaspian province of Ferghana by M. Thomas Barey of the Museum Branicki of Warsaw, and refers them to 189 species. Of these four are now for the first time introduced into the list of species of the Russian Empire—namely, *Coccothraustes humii*, *Pyrrhospiza punicea humii*, *Carpodacus grandis*, and *Columba leuconota*.

#### 25. *Townsend on a new American Eagle.*

[Description of a new Eagle from Alaska and a new Squirrel from Lower California. By C. H. Townsend. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xi. p. 145.]

The Alaskan form of *Haliaëtus leucocephalus* is separated subspecifically as being "considerably larger," under the name *H. l. alascanus*!

#### 26. *Whitlock on the Migration of Birds.*

[The Migration of Birds: a Consideration of Herr Gütke's Views. By F. B. Whitlock. 8vo. London: R. H. Porter, 1897.]

The majority of working ornithologists were well aware that the great value of the late Herr Gütke's work consisted in his personal observations on Heligoland, and they also knew that he could not be trusted with regard to figures. Mr. Whitlock has chosen to analyse the "billions," "millions," "myriads," "velocity of flight," &c., of the octogenarian with perfect seriousness—a task from which older ornithologists have shrunk; and if his remarks have given pain here, they have, on the other hand, given pleasure to some readers in America. As regards the much-discussed Northern Bluethroat, Mr. Whitlock should know that there is no

weight in the statement, in Arévalo's compilation, that the red-spotted form had been obtained at Valencia and Malaga. The assumption that "the Crane breeds only very locally and very sparingly in Spain" is only borne out in Col. Irby's well-known work with the important qualification that it is ceaseless persecution which is driving the birds from the places where in years gone by "they used to nest in great numbers." Moreover, the only marshes in Spain known to ornithologists are those of Andalucia, for men go like sheep to the ground discovered thirty years ago, and no one has any idea of what there may be on the Upper and Lower Guadiana. There are a good many crudities in Mr. Whitlock's criticisms.

#### XIV.—Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.

WE have received the following letters, addressed "to the Editors of 'The Ibis.'" Count Arrigoni Degli oddi's letter was accidentally omitted in our last number, for which we owe him many apologies.

SIRS,—In the last volume of 'The Ibis' Mr. Sushkin has described a new Palearctic Goose under the name of *Anser neglectus*, from specimens obtained by him in the East of Russia. I beg leave to call your attention to an apparently similar specimen in Count Ninni's collection in the Museum of the city of Venice. On the label it is marked as a "female, killed in February, 1890, in our lagoons." The following are the characters that distinguish it from a typical *A. segetum*:—Bill much more slender, under mandible less curved in the middle portion, the nail more curved, the horny teeth small, the light colour on the bill extending beyond the nostril; white feathers around the frontal angle, and also two white marks at the base of the upper mandible; the colour of the head and neck darker, especially in the hinder parts; upper parts darker, the edges of the dark-coloured feathers of the upper parts and flanks browner; a little white spot on the chin; underparts of a darker greyish tint; the white of the lower abdomen also less pure.